10.	उत्तर प्रदेश सर्किल	48	84	131	263
11.	टी एण्ड डी सर्किल	2	शून्य	2	4
12.	गुजरात	25	17	40	82
13.	मध्य प्रदेश सर्किल	290	235	237	762
14.	हिमाचल प्रदेश सर्किल	6	35	8	49
15.	उत्तर पूर्व सर्किल	28	25	91	144
16.	पंजाब	27	111	99	237
17.	तमिलनाडु सर्किल	94	158	91	343
18.	पश्चिम बंगाल	50	119	120	289
19.	उड़ीसा	64	74	143	281
20.	कलकत्ता	4	20	158	182
21.	मद्रास	102	24	40	166
22.	एनटीआर, नई दिल्ली	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य	शून्य

US Advice to set up TRA

2414. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government have recently asked the Government of India to set up a fully independent requlatory authority on the Telecommunications Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STA; E OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) It is the Govcnmeni of India's own decision to constitute a Telecom Regulatory Authority in order to ensure that a level playing field is available !o all private sector operators in the field of basic and value added services. For this purpose different models as obtaining in other countries are been studied and suggestions from a numbe* of other countries including the USA are also being examined.

(b) and (c) The proposal to set up a Telecom Regulatory Authority is still at formulation stage and further details arc being worked out.

Telephone Exchanges in Rural Areas

2415. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone exchanges in rural areas; State-wise;

(b) how many of these exchanges are electronic exchanges; and

(c) by when all the exchanges will be made electronic in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The status as on 28.2.1995 is attached as Statement *(See* below)

(c) The objectives of 8th five year plan of the department of telecommunications envisage replacement of all strowger MAX-III and line finder type MAX-II exchanges by electronic exchanges by 31st March, 1997. However efforts are being made to replace all remaining Electro-inechanica! exchanges by electronic exchanges in rural areas by 31st March, 1997.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Total No. of Telephone Exchanges in Rural Areas	Total No. of Electronic Exchanges in Rural Areas
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1746	1094
2.	Assam	186	186
3.	Bihar	525	525
4.	Gujarat	1053	953
5.	Haryana	537	537
6.	Himachal Pradesh	366	358
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	120	50
8.	Karnataka	1644	1644
9.	Kerala	597	521
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2130	2130
11.	Maharashtra (including Goa & MTNL Bombay)	1826	1729
12.	North East (including Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur)	169	169
13.	Orissa	579	579
14.	Punjab	585	568
15.	Rajasthan	1136	1129
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Madras Telephone District)	1017	920
17.	Uttar Pradesh	879	841
18.	West Bengal (including Calcutta Telephones & Sikkim)	367	355
19.	Andaman Nicobar	18	18
20.	Delhi (MTNL)	NIL	NIL

Financial Crunch in DOT

2416. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DOT is likely to fall woefully short of its target of providing three million new telephone lines during the current financial year;

(b) if so, cogent reasons for such a failure;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the DOT is facing a financial crunch and lacks resources for expansion; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken in this regard?